



State Senator

March 5, 2004

VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-southern Ingham counties

Coffee Break News

Out-of-state waste bills sent to governor

The Senate this week passed sweeping restrictions on the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, set a two-year moratorium on new landfills, and gave broader authority to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to enforce these tougher garbage standards. This legislative package represents a bi-partisan effort to limit the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste. Canadian and out-of-state-waste accounts for approximately 25 percent of all trash entering Michigan's landfills.

The bills provide a comprehensive revision of the state's solid-waste management laws to include additional protections against the disposal of inappropriate waste in Michigan's landfills. The new rules require all Canadian and out-of-state waste to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. Landfills would be required to refuse any out-of-state waste that did not meet the tough standards.

Senate approves benefit fund for fallen officers

The Michigan Senate today gave unanimous approval to legislation that creates a fund for survivors of public safety officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. House Bill 4178 creates a state-funded death benefit for public safety officers employed at the state level. The bill provides for a one-time payment of \$25,000 to the spouse, dependents, estate or caregiver of a public safety officer – including law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squad members, and ambulance crewmembers – who dies or is permanently disabled in the line of duty. The Senate amended the bill to include local public safety officers and make families of officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty on or after Oct. 1, 2003, eligible for benefits. Michigan is one of only a few states without a state-funded death benefit for state-employed public safety officers. The fund would be created within the Department of Treasury and money that remains in the fund would not lapse into the general fund. The bill now returns to the House for concurrence.

Michigan Senate says MSU is ideal site for Rare Isotope Accelerator

The Michigan Senate approved a resolution Thursday calling on the federal government to build a proposed Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University. The accelerator is the next-generation facility for conducting basic nuclear science research into the foundations of the physical world. In addition to advancing science, rare-isotope research has led to dramatic advancements in medicine, national security and detection technologies. Rare-isotope research is the very heart of current, leading-edge medical imaging technologies. Nuclear scientists at MSU are recognized worldwide as leaders in their field, making MSU an ideal location for the RIA. MSU is one of the premier educators for a nuclear science Ph.D. in the United States. It also is home to the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory – the top rare-isotope research facility in the nation.